

## Summary

This thesis entitled “The Paraenesis of the Epistle to the Hebrews: Purpose, Function and Theology in the Paraenetical Passages” deals with the role of the paraenesis in the epistle to the Hebrews. The aim of the study is to analyze the paraenetical passages in the letter and answer the question what the paraenetical purpose of the epistle is. Concerning (chapter 1) the unique relationship between exposition and exhortation in Hebrews I focus on the definition of the Early Christian ethics and its relationship to theology. I then proceed to the history of research in the letter. The introductory topics (chapter 2) such as the authorship, the date of writing, the address, a religious background, the opponent, the rhetoric, the structure and the theology of the epistle significantly shape the understanding of the text. Still, many of these questions remain the matter of dispute in scholarly circles. In the exegetical section (chapter 3) I analyze all the paraenetical passages in Hebrews (2:1-4; 3:1-6; 3:7-4:13; 4:14-16; 5:11-6:20; 10:19-39; 12:1-29 and 13:1-25) and focus on the rhetorical strategy, description of the problem, typical motives in exhortations and how the paraenesis is related to the theology of the letter. At the end (chapter 4) I summarize the results. The paraenesis of the epistle is mostly theologically motivated. It draws its strength from the expository parts which function as a bridge to the exhortations. The paraenetical passages carefully combine warnings with encouragements. The letter is not polemical. The appeals can be organized into several semantic fields. The author exhorts the ostracized Christian community to hear the God’s voice in the Son and the High priest and endure in faith following the Christ’s example as well as the *exempla* of the Scripture. He shows them a new alternative space (altar, kingdom, city) in heaven they can approach in prayer and worship. The unique Christological, cosmological and eschatological concepts serve the paraenetical purpose.